



**MARICOPA
ASSOCIATION of
GOVERNMENTS**

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September 12, 2006

TO: Members of the MAG Human Services Technical Committee

FROM: Carl Harris-Morgan, Town of Gilbert, Chairperson

SUBJECT: NOTIFICATION OF MEETING AND TRANSMITTAL OF TENTATIVE
AGENDA

Thursday, September 14, 2006, from 1:00 – 3:00 p.m.

Maricopa Association of Governments
302 N. First Avenue, 2nd Floor
Phoenix, AZ 85003
Cholla Room

Please remember to park in the garage underneath the Compass Bank Building (1st Ave. entrance, any non-reserved or visitor space) and bring your parking ticket to the meeting for validation. For those using transit, the Regional Public Transportation Authority will provide transit tickets for your trip. Members may also attend the meeting by videoconference or by telephone conference. Please contact the MAG offices to make arrangements.

Pursuant to Title II of the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA), MAG does not discriminate on the basis of disability in admissions to or participation in its public meetings. A person with a disability may request a reasonable accommodation, such as a sign language interpreter, by contacting DeDe Gaisthea at the MAG office. Requests should be made as early as possible to allow time to arrange the accommodations.

The MAG Human Services Technical Committee will meet at the above time and place. Please call Amy St. Peter at the MAG office at 602.452.5049 if you have any questions. We look forward to seeing you.

TENTATIVE AGENDA

COMMITTEE ACTION REQUESTED

1. Call to Order and Introductions
2. Call to the Audience

An opportunity will be provided to members of the public to address the Human Services Technical

- Welcome and Introductions
- Open floor to members of the public.

Committee on items not scheduled on the agenda that fall under the jurisdiction of MAG, or on items on the agenda for discussion but not for action. Members of the public will be requested not to exceed a three-minute time period for their comments. A total of 15 minutes will be provided for the Call to the Audience agenda item, unless the Human Services Technical Committee requests an exception to this limit. Please note that those wishing to comment on action agenda items will be given an opportunity at the time the item is heard.

3. Approval of August 10, 2006 Human Services Technical Committee Meeting Minutes

- For approval of the August 10, 2006 meeting minutes.

4. Presentations from the Arizona Department of Economic Security (DES)

- For information and discussion.

Betty Wangsness, Rehabilitation Services Administration, will offer a presentation on how this department utilizes locally planned Social Service Block Grant (SSBG) dollars.

Kyle Moore, Adults, Children, Youth and Families Division, will offer a presentation on how this department utilizes SSBG to offer services.

5. DES Report on SSBG Contractors and Services

- For information, discussion and possible action.

Amy St. Peter, MAG, will present the report submitted by DES listing the contractors that are funded through the locally planned SSBG dollars.

6. Committee Membership Contact Information

- For information.

Amy St. Peter, MAG, will offer the option for committee members to share contact information for the purpose of networking.

7. HUD USDA Conference Presentation

- For information and discussion.

Cynthia Zwick, Arizona Community Action Association, will offer a presentation on the recent conference about food stamps.

8. Announcements

- For information.

An opportunity will be provided for members to

MARICOPA ASSOCIATION OF GOVERNMENTS
HUMAN SERVICES TECHNICAL COMMITTEE
MEETING MINUTES
AUGUST 10, 2006

MEMBERS ATTENDING

* Carl Harris-Morgan, Town of Gilbert,
Chairman
*Lorenzo Aguirre, City of El Mirage
Judy Bowden, Mesa United Way
Moises Gallegos, City of Phoenix
*Paige Garrett, Glendale Human Services
Council
*Kate Hanley, Tempe Community Council
*Connie James, City of Scottsdale
*Mary Lynn Kasunic, Area Agency on Aging
Margarita Leyvas, Maricopa County
Joy McClain, City of Tolleson
*Joyce Lopez-Powell, VSUW
*Dan Lundberg, City of Surprise
Doris Marshall, City of Phoenix
Jeff Young for Sandra Mendez, DES/CSA
Rex Critchfield for Kyle Moore, DES/ACYF
Charlene Moran Flaherty for Susan Neidlinger,
DES/DDD
Sandra Reagan, Southwest Community
Network

Sylvia Sheffield, City of Avondale
*Judy Tapscott, City of Tempe
Wayne Tormala, City of Phoenix, Vice Chair
+Patrick Tyrrell, City of Chandler
Patricia Nightingale for Neal Young, City of
Phoenix

OTHERS PRESENT

William Arnold, SCN
Eddie Caine, MC
Frances Delgado, MC
DeDe Gaisthea, MAG
John Hoag, DES
Jose Mercado, City of Phoenix
Amy St. Peter, MAG
Kathy Waite, DES

+ Those members present by
audio/videoconferencing.

*Those members neither present nor represented by
proxy.

1. Open Meeting for Discussion
Vice Chairman Wayne Tormala, City of Phoenix, called the meeting to order at 1:10 p.m. and introductions ensued.
2. Call to the Audience
No comments were made.
3. Approval of June 8, 2006 Human Services Technical Committee Meeting
Vice Chairman Wayne Tormala called for a motion to approve the June 8, 2006, meeting minutes. Sandra Reagan, SCN, moved to approve the minutes. Joy McClain, City of Tolleson, seconded the motion. The minutes passed unanimously.

4. Update to Revised Social Service Block Grant (SSBG) Allocation Recommendations

Vice Chairman Tormala introduced Amy St. Peter, MAG, who presented an update to the revised SSBG allocation recommendations. The revised recommendations include a uniform 19.722 percent reduction for the service categories within all but the development disabilities target group. The funding for the service categories within this target group will be consolidated into extended employment. If funding remains level, then the original plan will be used. Since the June HSTC meeting, the revised recommendations were reviewed and recommended for approval by the MAG Human Services Coordinating Committee (HSCC) and the MAG Management Committee. The MAG Regional Council approved the revised recommendations at their meeting on June 28, 2006. The Arizona Department of Economic Security (DES) received the approved recommendations on June 29, 2006, one day before the deadline.

DES incorporated the recommendations into a draft SSBG Plan that was sent out for public review and comment. Ms. St. Peter thanked DES for holding two sets of public hearings in response to concern that not enough notice had been given before the first public hearing. DES will send the revised plan to the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS) along with the original plan that does not reflect the proposed cuts. Kathy Waite, DES, said this would happen before the September 1, 2006 deadline. Ms. St. Peter said that while it is looking good that SSBG will be funded at last years funding level, it is important to remain vigilant.

Ms. St. Peter reported that HSCC asked HSTC to review advocacy options to support level funding for SSBG. The Committee discussed requesting approval through the MAG process to draft a letter of advocacy. Ms. Reagan commented the letter should be drafted even though the House and Senate appropriations committees have both passed SSBG with funding at the 2006 level. Ms. Reagan also suggested using actual numbers of clients served to show a tangible impact of the proposed cut. Ms. St. Peter responded that she had requested a list from DES of their contracted agencies with award amounts and if possible, the location of the agency. While the agency location may not coincide exactly with the service delivery area, it will give the committee a starting place for further research as needed to determine the impact of the proposed cut on the municipalities. Ms. St. Peter thanked Kathy Waite and John Hoag for their commitment to make this information available by the end of the month.

Ms. St. Peter asked if there were any other concerns that the Committee would like to address in the letter. Mr. Gallegos commented the issue of leverage is critical as SSBG funding allows the municipalities to access other funding sources. Mr. Tyrrell encouraged all municipalities to look at their local services and Community Action Programs and to consider how their jurisdiction funds agencies.

Mr. Gallegos asked if the letter would be address to the federal or congressional level. Ms. St. Peter said that it would depend on where the legislation is in the process. Ms. Leyvas asked if they were any lobbyist organizations that focus on SSBG. Ms. Waite replied while Arizona is very unique in having an involved process through the councils of governments, there is no champion on the federal level. Ms. Waite said child welfare agencies are very

concerned about maintaining SSBG many states use their SSBG funding for child welfare programs.

Vice Chairman Tormala called for a motion to request approval through the MAG process to draft a letter expressing concern about potential and future cuts to SSBG funding. Marge Leyvas, Maricopa County, offered the motion. Pat Tyrrell, City of Chandler, seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

5. Presentations from the Arizona Department of Economic Security (DES)

Vice Chairman Tormala introduced Rex Critchfield, DES, who presented on the newly formed Division of Aging and Adult Services and services that are impacted by SSBG. Mr. Critchfield said DES has just formed the Division of Aging and Adult Services as of July 1, 2006. He said this development comes from the recognition that by 2020, there will be a significant increase in the number of people in Arizona over the age of 60. In response to this shift in demographics, there will be corresponding changes in the demand for services. The Governor's Office decided in February to establish a new division focused on aging in an effort to meet these emerging needs and to offer a leader in the aging arena. Mr. Critchfield said DES conducting a national search for candidates and will review the list of possible candidates with a panel at the end of the month.

Mr. Critchfield then reviewed the list of services that will be offered by the new division with SSBG funds. These services include adult day care, congregated meals, counseling, home delivery meals, and transportation. He said very often other funding sources are added to SSBG to make these services available. Ms. Gallegos clarified that these are the same services for which the Committee recommends funding allocations. Ms. St. Peter affirmed this and responded that DES is preparing a more detailed list of the agencies that receive funding to deliver these services.

Ms. Leyvas asked if DES is in the process of purchasing software for contracts. Mr. Critchfield replied yes and no. He said DES has the funding to purchase off the shelf software but they have contacted other state agencies to ask what they software they are using. He said Ohio has developed software that may be useful to Arizona. They are checking into the possibility of using Ohio's software instead of buying a standard package. Mr. Critchfield explained that this system would be free to Arizona since Ohio used federal funds to develop it. DES would then just have to pay for staff to modify the system to meet Arizona's needs. While purchasing off the shelf software is not cost prohibitive, licensing each employee drives up the cost. He said the DES has found that working with another state and their system was the best option because they know that the system used by the other state works. Mr. Critchfield said they hope to have the new system in place by the end of the fiscal year. Ms. Leyvas asked if other agencies would be asked for input. Mr. Critchfield said yes, the plan is to include provider agencies.

Vice Chairman Tormala introduced Charlene Moran Flaherty, DES, who offered a presentation on the Community Services Administration and how SSBG funding is used for services in this division. Ms. Flaherty presented the following:

1. Emergency shelter: \$334,136

2. Supportive intervention and guidance counseling: \$40,332
3. Transitional housing: \$147,115
4. Case management program: \$976,672
5. Transportation: \$15,735

Ms. St. Peter thanked Mr. Critchfield and Ms. Flaherty for their presentations so the Committee can better understand how SSBG funding is used at the agency level. This will facilitate more strategic allocation recommendations in the future. Ms. St. Peter said the Committee would have the opportunity to hear from the Rehabilitation Services Administration, Division for Development Disabilities and the Administration for Children, Youth and Families in the next few months. Ms. Bowden asked if SSBG is used by DES for overhead. Mr. Critchfield said the funding is not used by DES for overhead. He said it is passed through to the agencies for services.

6. 2006 MAG Human Services Survey Results

Ms. St. Peter presented the final results of the 2006 MAG Human Services Survey for review and referred the Committee to two documents including a spreadsheet and a summary sheet. She said there had been a great response. The surveys identify MAG's role in coordination and collaboration in order to provide information to inform policy planning for the agencies and municipalities. People wanted to be engaged and the highest priority issues are youth, homelessness and domestic violence. Ms. St. Peter said MAG is already doing a lot in these areas. Other issues of concern include human services transportation, aging, substance abuse, childcare and funding. Work on a new Human Services Coordination Transportation Plan begins on August 17, 2006 at a stakeholders meeting. The plan will identify priorities for three funding sources including Job Access and Reverse Commute, New Freedom and 5310 Elderly Persons with Disabilities. MAG addressed funding in the new chapter in the 2006 Regional Human Services Plan. Substance abuse and childcare may present areas for future activity.

Ms. St. Peter asked the Committee members about the priorities for their municipalities. She explained the survey is one part of three phases. The 2006 Regional Human Services Plan was the first phase. The survey is the second phase. The 2007 Regional Human Services Retreat will be the third phase. The goal of the entire process is to build a dialogue within the community about the needs and resources to develop strategic regional human services planning.

Ms. Bowden commented that the survey respondents might sway the results as there were many youth and aging focused agencies that participated in the survey. Ms. St. Peter agreed and explained that is the reason for showing the municipal and agency results separately.

Vice Chair Tormala asked about applications for this information. Ms. St. Peter said from a staffing point this is positive feedback to know we are moving in the right direction. This will also be used to help plan the conference in identifying issues to pair. An example of issue pairing would be the Youth Empowerment Project (YEP) that pairs the MAG Regional DV Council and the Youth Policy Stakeholders Group. Ms. Flaherty commented that other resources like the Arizona Evaluation Project might be of assistance as well.

The Committee discussed other issues to consider. Ms. Flaherty said that DES is looking at collaboration across main services. Vice Chairman Tormala stated that collaboration is a buzzword that has been used often and not well defined. He suggested that one of the speakers could address the keys to successful collaborations. Mr. Gallegos added there is a need to talk about both prevention and intervention in relation to homelessness. Ms. Bowden added that youth and aging are critical issues. Ms. Marshall commented that the issue of aging crosses many services including homelessness and disabilities. Ms. St. Peter agreed that there is a need to break down the silos regarding all these issues.

Vice Chairman Tormala called for a motion to approve the results of the 2006 MAG Human Services Survey. Ms. Marshall motioned to approve. Mr. Gallegos seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

7. 2007 Human Services Retreat Update

Ms. St. Peter provided an update on planning for the 2007 Human Services Retreat. She explained this is a new program for the MAG Unified Work Program. The need for an event like this was identified years ago. The focus will be on service integration and will consider issues that overlap as new opportunities for collaboration. An example is the Youth Empowerment Project earlier discussed that addresses the impact of domestic violence on youth. This project is being supported by the Governor's Office through an Innovative grant.

The format of the event will include two plenary sessions, one in the morning and then the afternoon with breakout session in-between. Ms. St. Peter asked for suggestions for skilled facilitators to run the breakout groups focusing on issue pairing. Ms. Bowden said the City of Mesa has a training program for facilitators that might be helpful. Ms. St. Peter added that the facilitators would have templates to use for the sessions. She also said she is looking for a keynote speaker to focus on the benefits of collaboration and another speaker to offer examples of successful collaborations.

The video during the morning plenary session will touch on these critical issues by showcasing an example of a successful collaboration for each MAG Human Services Committee. Ms. Sheffield recommended the West Valley Human Services Alliance as the HSTC collaboration example. Ms. St. Peter explained the Alliance started with the merger of three groups including the West Valley Human Services Stakeholders, the DES Community Council for the West Valley and the West Valley Coordinating Council. Through this combined effort, the Alliance took on the West Valley Scan as their first project.

Mr. Tyrrell asked if the collaboration should be a MAG effort. Ms. St. Peter affirmed this to be the case. Ms. Reagan suggested the EITC Program as the HSTC example since it involved many collaborations with various municipalities and affected the entire region. Ms. St. Peter said this was another good example. She said the Committee would be reviewing these suggestions again at their next meeting and would select one example as the content for the video.

8. Announcements

Ms. St. Peter commented that the Human Services Plan is out in the community and has been well received. She said the Governor's Office has called to schedule a meeting to discuss the

plan. In addition, MAG staff has met with ASU professors who have said they will use the plan in their public policy classes.

Moises Gallegos announced the Family Advocacy Center (FAC) is actively looking for a new director. The submission deadline is September. He said he will transition to the Head Start Program when the new FAC Director is chosen. Deanna Jovanovich will take his old position in Community Services and will be the HSTC representative for the City of Phoenix.

Ms. McClain said the City of Tolleson Teen Council will have a kick-off for their program against drug use and teen pregnancy campaign. Billboards should be up by September.

Ms. Leyvas announced that on July 1, 2006, with DES funding they are offering a financially fit program that will work on asset building. She said the City of Glendale is sponsoring a mentoring program. They report 97 to 98 percent of the youth involved went on to graduate. The program is a collaboration between the Glendale Police Department and the Boys & Girls Clubs and will include after school mentoring and tutoring. The back to school program has expanded and is now offering new supplies like specialized calculators. Peoria is offering a nutritional program that will offer food and nutrition workshops. They will offer cooking and grocery shopping courses.

Ms. Sheffield announced that Gina Ramos Montes from the City of Phoenix has been hired as the director for the newly formed Neighborhood and Housing Family Services Division in Avondale and will start on the 28th of August. Avondale is also hiring a youth coordinator.

Ms. Bowden stated that Prehab and Mesa CAN are merging and this will be a good move for both parties. Pat Gilbert will work for the MARC Center.

Mr. Critchfield stated that DES will be offering a one stop shop for seniors and those soon to be seniors.

Mr. Gallegos commented that one month ago HUD and USDA held a conference in Florida. Cynthia Zwick from ACAA attended the training. He said it might be a good idea to have her on the next agenda to give a report on the conference.

9. Adjourn

The meeting adjourned at 2:50 pm. The next meeting of the Human Services Technical Committee is scheduled for Thursday September 14, 2006 from 1:00 p.m. - 3:00 pm at the MAG building, second floor, Cholla Room.

present a brief summary of current events. The Committee is not allowed to propose, discuss, deliberate or take action at the meeting on any matter in the summary, unless the specific matter is properly noticed for legal action.

9. Adjourn

The next Human Services Technical Committee meeting is scheduled for Thursday, October 12, 2006 at 1:00 p.m. at the MAG offices, second floor, Cholla Room.